

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to a non-final Office action (Paper No. 14) dated 22 August 2003. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-5, 8-15, 19-25 and 27-30 will be pending in this application. Applicant has canceled claims 16-18 without prejudice or disclaimer as to its subject matter by this amendment.

In Paper No. 14, the Examiner deemed claims 1-5, 8-15, 19-25 and 27-30 as allowed.

In Paper No. 14, the Examiner rejected claims 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by newly cited Johnson *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 4,655,518. In Paper No. 14, the also rejected claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Johnson '518 in view of newly cited Lytle, U.S. Patent No. 4,846,734. Claims 16-18 are the only rejected claims in Paper No. 14.

Applicant is hereby canceling rejected claims 16-18 by this amendment without prejudice or disclaimer as to their subject matter. Applicant is canceling claims 16-18 solely to receive an instant Notice of Allowance. Applicant is not cancelling claims 16-18 because Applicant agrees with the prior art rejections of Paper No. 14.

Therefore, Applicant requests immediate receipt of a Notice of allowance for claims 1-5, 8-15, 19-25 and 27-30 in response to the filing of this amendment.

In view of the above, all claims are deemed to be allowable and this application is believed to be in condition to be passed to issue. Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's attorney.

No fee is incurred by filing this Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert E. Bushnell,
Attorney for the Applicant
Registration No.: 27,774

1522 "K" Street N.W., Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 408-9040

Folio: P56374
Date: 11/21/03
I.D.: REB/ML